

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 11 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 11 is found in, for example, Fig. 10 and page 26, line 23-page 27, line 5 of Applicants' application. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8 and 11-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,965,440 to Nakagiri et al. (hereinafter "Nakagiri") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,934,046 to Nishikawa et al. (hereinafter "Nishikawa") and newly applied U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0075865 to Kato et al. (hereinafter "Kato"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 11 each recites, *inter alia*, that a warning is generated if the user designates to delete the respective one of the plurality of jobs from the memory when the user designates not to store the connected job in the memory. As discussed at page 26, line 23-page 27, line 5 of Applicants' specification, this will prevent the spooler from being set in a state in which the image data of the connected job is not stored (when the plurality of jobs is to be deleted from the memory).

The Office Action asserts that Nakagiri discloses, at col. 21, lines 12-24, that the system allows the user to enter information regarding deletion of a job from the spool file or memory. However, Nakagiri does not disclose or suggest any warning that is generated if the user designates to delete the respective one of the plurality of jobs from the memory when the user designates not to store the connected job in the memory, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11. Nakagiri also does not recognize the above-discussed advantage.

Neither Nishikawa nor Kato overcomes Nakagiri's deficiency. Therefore, even if Nakagiri, Nishikawa and Kato are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest the

subject matter of claims 1 and 11. Therefore, claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the applied references.

Dependent claims 2-8 and 12-18 are allowable at least for their dependence on claims 1 and 11, respectively, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 9, 10, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakagiri in view of Nishikawa and Kato, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,618,566 to Kujirai et al. (hereinafter "Kujirai"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kujirai does not overcome the deficiency of Nakagiri, Nishikawa and Kato with respect to claims 1 and 11. Therefore, claims 9, 10, 19 and 20 are allowable at least for their dependence on claims 1 and 11, respectively, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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